

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 14-28 and 43-45 were pending in this application and have been rejected. By this amendment, claims 14-28 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 43-45 are amended and new claims 46-48 are added, as shown above. Of the remaining claims, claims 43-45 are independent in form. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, for example, at pp. 25-30. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14-18, 21-25, 28 and 43-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “AutoCAD 2000- 3D Modeling, a Visual Approach” by John Wilson (“Wilson”) in view of Japanese Publication Number 08-314985 (JP 8314985 A) to Yutaka (“Yutaka”) and claims 19, 20, 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Yutaka and further in view of “AutoCad 2000: The Complete Reference” by David Cohn (“Cohn”). Applicants submit an English translation of Yutaka.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections and respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action admits that Wilson does not show displaying a 3D model and the virtual plane in the same virtual 3D space from a view point which is different from the normal line of the virtual plane. (See Office Action, p. 3, ¶ 2). For this feature, the Office Action relies on Yutaka and states that figure 9 of Yutaka appears to be virtually the same as the drawing previously submitted by the Applicants to clarify the claims. (See Office Action,

p. 2, ¶ 3).

However, Applicants understand from the attached English translation that Fig. 9 of Yutaka describes how to obtain a projected shape. (See English translation, pp. 12-14). That is, in Fig. 9, a projected plane is not displayed together with three dimensional parts. Moreover, Applicants understand that any dimensional information or dimensional tolerance information is not displayed on a projected plane of Fig. 9. Applicants also understand that according to the invention disclosed in Yutaka, as shown in Fig. 2, it is necessary to search and select dimensional information among a lower left projected drawing to confirm the dimensional information of 3D model displayed on an upper projected drawing.

In contrast, each of amended claims 43-45 requires “a display of a 3D model and a plurality of virtual planes in the same 3D space, wherein the 3D model is projected on each of the virtual planes [wherein] attribution information [is] allocated on the selected plane in the 3D space.” Thus, amended claims 43-45 clarify that a virtual plane, on which dimensional information is allocated, is displayed together with a 3D model in the same 3D space. Applicants submit that neither Wilson nor Yutaka teach, disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Although the previously presented screen shot does not show dimensional information, claims 43-45 require “a display of the attribution information allocated on the selected plane in the 3D space.” Accordingly, Applicants have not attached the previously presented screen shot, however, if the screen shot is requested, Applicants will submit it. According to claims 43-45, and in contrast with Wilson and Yutaka, it is possible to easily confirm where the dimensional information has been allocated.

Finally, Applicants submit that the Office Action fails to provide a motivation to combine Wilson and Yutaka to arrive at Applicants’ claims. The Office Action states that

combining Wilson and Yutaka “would allow the user to view the 2D and 3D models in the same scale and better understand the scope of the model.” (See Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 4). However, the Office Action does not state that Wilson or Yutaka or the level of skill in the art provides this motivation.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art and is therefore believed to be patentable over the prior art.

Applicants have chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Likewise, Applicants have not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 46-48 to claim further aspects of the present invention. Applicants submit that, as independent claims 43-45 from which new claims 46-48 depend are believed allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, new claims 46-48 are believed allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present invention as recited in the claims presented herein is believed patentably distinct over the art of record and Applicants respectfully request that the respective rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed as the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance.

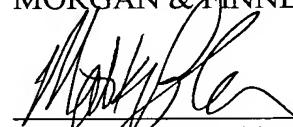
If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATION

While the petitioned extension of time is believed sufficient, should an additional extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4823.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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